

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A field liner as claimed in claim 21, in which the first layer of the sheet element is formed of polypropylene film.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A field liner as claimed in claim 21, in which the first layer of the sheet element contains an insecticide compound therein.

10. (Original) A field liner as claimed in claim 9, in which the insecticide compound is the pyrethroid insecticide, Deltamethrin.

11. (Previously presented) A field liner as claimed in claim 21, in which the second layer of the sheet element is formed of one of low density polyethylene and high density polyethylene.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A field liner as claimed in claim 21, in which the second layer of the sheet element contains an insecticide compound.

14. (Original) A field liner as claimed in claim 13, in which the insecticide compound is the pyrethroid insecticide, Deltamethrin.

15. (Previously presented) A field liner as claimed in claim 21, which includes a third layer formed of a flexible aluminum film that is vapour impermeable and that is laminated between the said first layer and the said second layer of the sheet element.

16. (Previously presented) A field liner as claimed in claim 21, in which the adhesive substance comprises an adhesive sealant.

17. (Previously presented) A field liner as claimed in claim 21, in which the adhesive substance is covered by a peel-off strip that can form a part of the field liner and that can be peeled-off prior to or during application of the field liner onto a pole.

18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A field liner for protecting a timber pole against subsoil decay, which includes a sheet element in the form of an elongate cylindrical sleeve of which one end is at least partially sealed, the sheet element being in the form of a laminate structure including a first layer of material and a second layer of material, with the first layer of material being a flexible, liquid impermeable, non-biodegradable synthetic plastics film material that contains a dry film biocide therein and defining an inner surface of the sleeve and the second layer of material being a flexible, liquid impermeable, non-biodegradable synthetic plastics film material that is tear resistant and defining an outer surface of the sleeve, and in which the second layer of material, is provided with a strip of an adhesive substance ~~externally thereon~~ positioned on the outer surface of the sleeve, which can adhere to an opposing region of the second layer of material when the sleeve is located on a timber pole and tightly wrapped around the timber pole, for securing the location of the sleeve on the pole.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of converting a plane sheet liner into an elongated sleeve of claim 21 for protecting a timber pole against subsoil decay comprising;
providing an elongated sheet;
folding the sheet element into a loose cylindrical sleeve having a diameter substantially larger than a diameter of the timber pole;

heat welding so as to retain the sheet element in the cylindrical sleeve configuration;

heat welding one end of said loose cylindrical sleeve to at least partially seal said end;

applying an adhesive substance externally onto said loose cylindrical sleeve; and rendering said cylindrical sleeve in a flat configuration for later use.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of protecting a pole against subsoil decay comprising;

reforming a loose elongate sleeve from the flat configuration of claim 22;

sliding said loose sleeve over said pole till the butt of said pole bears against the at least partially sealed end of said sleeve in order to partially cover the butt of said pole;

removing a peel-off strip from the adhesive substance externally applied onto said elongated sleeve; and

wrapping the excess sleeve tightly around the pole whereafter the externally applied adhesive substance serves to secure the sleeve on the pole.

24. (New) A field liner for protecting a timber pole against subsoil decay without applying heat, field said liner comprising:

an elongate cylindrical sleeve having opposite ends, one of which is at least partially sealed, the sleeve being formed from a laminate sheet structure including a first layer and a second layer, the first layer comprising a flexible, liquid impermeable, non-biodegradable synthetic plastics film containing a dry film biocide, said first layer defining an inner surface of the sleeve defining a interior sized and shaped for receiving the timber pole and the second layer comprising a flexible, liquid impermeable, non-biodegradable synthetic plastics tear resistant film defining an outer surface of the sleeve, said first and second layers maintaining original sizes upon application of heat; and

a strip of an adhesive substance provided externally on the second layer adapted for adhering to an opposing region of the second layer when the sleeve is located on a timber pole and tightly wrapped around the timber pole to a final circumference matching that of the timber pole without applying heat.

25. (New) A plurality of field liners for protecting a timber pole against subsoil decay, said plurality of field liners being wrapped in a roll, each of said field liners in the roll comprising:

an elongate cylindrical sleeve having opposite ends, one of which is at least partially sealed, the sleeve being formed from a laminate sheet structure including a first layer and a second layer, the first layer comprising a flexible, liquid impermeable, non-biodegradable synthetic plastics film containing a dry film biocide, said first layer defining an inner surface of the sleeve defining a interior sized and shaped for receiving the timber pole and the second layer comprising a flexible, liquid impermeable, non-biodegradable synthetic plastics tear resistant film defining an outer surface of the sleeve; and

a strip of an adhesive substance provided externally on the second layer adapted for adhering to an opposing region of the second layer when the sleeve is located on a timber pole and tightly wrapped around the timber pole, for maintaining the sleeve tightly wrapped around the timber pole and secured in location on the pole.